

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference 03-F-010PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/JP2003/003332	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 March 2003 (19.03.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 26 March 2002 (26.03.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12N 1/20		
Applicant NEW CENTURY FERMENTATION RESEARCH, LTD.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 16.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I Basis of the report
II Priority
III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV Lack of unity of invention
V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI Certain documents cited
VII Certain defects in the international application
VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 July 2003 (25.07.2003)	Date of completion of this report 08 December 2003 (08.12.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2003/003332

I. Basis of the report**1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

the international application as originally filed



the description:

pages

pages

pages

, as originally filed

, filed with the demand



the claims:

pages

pages

pages

pages

, as originally filed

, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19

, filed with the demand



the drawings:

pages

pages

pages

, as originally filed

, filed with the demand



the sequence listing part of the description:

pages

pages

pages

, as originally filed

, filed with the demand

, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:



the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).



the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).



the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____



the claims, Nos. _____



the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/03332

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-3	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-3	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-3	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP, 58-98085, A (Hitachi Ltd.), 10 June, 1983

Document 2: JP, 53-75033, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 04 July, 1978

Document 3: JP, 7-177876, A (Yakult Honsha Co., Ltd.), 18 July, 1995

The inventions relating to claims 1-3 appear to be novel and to involve an inventive step over the documents cited in the ISR.

None of the documents cited in the ISR describes or suggests regulating the concentration of saccharides remaining in the liquid culture medium by feeding a substrate based on the cumulative consumption of an alkali to thereby regulate the bacterium concentration at a set level.